Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /125 W

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P 092134Z JUN 77 FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3955

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FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA--SIT REP JUNE 8

- 1. COMMITTEE I DID NOT MEET JUNE 8, AS DELEGATIONS CONSIDERED HOW TO REACT TO THE LATEST EVENSEN COMPROMISE TEXT ON THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION AND RESOURCE POLICY.
- 2. THE G-77 HELD TWO CAUCUSES DURING THE DAY, TRYING TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON POSITION ON THE EVENSEN TEXT. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION ABOUT THESE MEETINGS IS SKETCHY, THERE APPEARS TO BE A SPLIT BETWEEN A SMALL GROUP OF RADICALS WHO WANT TO REJECT THE EVENSEN TEXT AND A LARGER GROUP OF MODERATES WHO HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS BUT ARE READY TO CONTINUE USING IF AS A BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS IN COMMITTEE I. A SEPARATE AFRICAN CAUCUS DURING THE DAY REVEALED A WIDE SPLIT IN THAT GROUP ALONG SIMILAR LINES.
- 3. THE G-77 PLANNED TO MEET AGAIN ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 9, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THE OUTCOME OF THEIR DELIBERATIONS SHOULD BE KNOWN WHEN THE EVENSEN WORKING GROUP RECONVENES IN THE AFTERNOON. THE CURRENT ODDS FAVOR THE G-77 EXPRESSING SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE EVENSEN TEXT, WITHOUT REJECTING IT OUTRIGHT. THE US DEL INTENDS TO EXPRESS REGRET THAT THE EVENSEN PROCESS HAS NOT MOVED TOWARD AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE, AND DISSATISFACTION WITH MANY

SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE EVENSEN TEXT. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT DEFECTS ARE: A) DILUTION OF THE PARALLEL SYSTEM BY SUGGESTING THAT ALL MINING, INCLUDING THAT OF STATES PARTIES, WOULD BE "ON BEHALF" OF THE AUTHORITY; B) AN OVERLY RESTRICTIVE PRODUCTION CEILING; C) AN ANTIMINING BIAS IN THE RESOURCE POLICY; D) A BANKING SYSTEM AT THE EXPLORATION, RATHER THAN PROSPECTING, STAGE; AND E) PROVISIONS IN ARTICLE 22 AND THE ANNEX I CALLING FOR EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF OPPORTUNITIES TO MINE THE SEABED AMONG ALL STATES.

4. AFTER HEARING ARGUMENTS JUNE 9 AND 10, EVENSEN PLANS TO PRODUCE A FINAL COMPROMISE TEXT FOR SUBMISSION TO COMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN ENGO JUNE 13. WHEREUPON EVENSEN WILL DEPART FOR A FISHERY CONSULTATION IN MOSCOW, LEAVING THE BALL IN ENGO'S COURT, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. YOUNG

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